

# SEDUCTION IN EDINBURGH:

BEING SOME PARTICULARS REGARDING

THE RELATIVE SOCIAL POSITION

OF

THE SEDUCER AND THE SEDUCED,

&c. &c.

TAKEN FROM THE RECORDS OF 364 FIRST CONFINEMENTS OCCURRING IN  
THE EDINBURGH ROYAL MATERNITY HOSPITAL.

ARRANGED BY

FRANCIS VACHER,

RESIDENT SURGEON.

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## SEDUCTION IN EDINBURGH.

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FIVE and twenty years ago an Edinburgh Surgeon, writing on the subject of seduction in this city, makes the three following extraordinary statements: \*—

I. Eighty per cent of all who have been seduced, have been led astray by individuals moving in a higher sphere than themselves.

II. When servants are seduced in town, it is generally by the students attending the University.

III. Soldiers are more frequently guilty of the crime of seduction than any other class of the community. It is difficult to say whether the officer or the private is most deserving of censure.

Now, reading these, it appears to me pretty certain either that Mr Tait's statistics must have been faulty, or his deductions loosely and carelessly arrived at, or the whole is just so much sensational writing, or matters have changed very much since his time. That such statements or assertions will not hold good now a-day, I believe I am in a position to prove, by statistics collected from the books of the Royal Maternity Hospital, and I print them, knowing that it is now commonly accepted that to the educated classes (especially officers and students) we must look for by far the

\* "Magdalenism," by Wm. Tait, 1842, page 141.

larger proportion of seducers, and that private soldiers are also much concerned in seduction.

The tables I have drawn up need little explanation and no comment, they simply give a few particulars respecting 364 unmarried young women, who during the past three years were delivered of their first child in the Hospital.

Table A gives the occupation of the father of the young woman in each case, shewing the social position to which she belongs, and the occupation of her seducer.

Table B gives an alphabetical list of the trades or professions of the seducers, and the number of each.

To these I have added Table C, showing the age at which the confinement took place, not that this has much to do with the question at issue, but that it may perhaps possess some general interest.

As these particulars are all drawn from the statements of the young women themselves, the evidence they bring against the working classes, as the chief agents in seduction, is more than fair, as it is naturally to the mother's interest to affiliate her child to a rich rather than to a poor man; indeed, it might be said, that the few cases put down to gentlemen and professional men, are for this reason in excess of what is actually the truth.

The large proportion the building trades bear to the whole cannot escape observation, and that the number in one of these trades only should more than double the number ascribed to private soldiers, is certainly very remarkable.

That the only student on this black list should be a veterinary student, is certainly very creditable to the gentlemen attending the University. It is gratifying also to see that much maligned class, military officers, only represented by one.

I may mention that in these 364 cases, 97 of the young

women were orphans at the time of confinement, 87 had lost fathers only, 66 had lost mothers only, 13 could give no account, and in the remaining 101 both parents were living.

From the materials in Table A it would have been easy to have drawn up an alphabetical list of the occupations of the fathers—any one interested in the matter can do so for himself. Here the farmers, labourers, and shoemakers, occur in greatest numbers. Why shoemakers should be thus more unfortunate in their children than other mechanics, it is impossible to say. Labourers, again, represent so large a class, that their figuring pretty often both as the wronger and the wronged, is not surprising. But in the matter of the farmers it is certainly singular that, whereas only 3 appear as seducers, 28 or 1-13th of the whole number of the seduced were daughters of farmers. Indeed, look at these tables from what side you will, the deductions are the same, viz.:—

I. That a very trifling per cent of the seduced have been led astray by men moving in a higher sphere than themselves; that as a rule, the seducers in each grade of the community are to be found within that grade; and that it is quite as much the exception for a gentleman to seduce the daughter of a working man, as it is for a private soldier to seduce the daughter of a minister, or for the child of a physician to be led astray by a policeman.

II. That young women, whether servants or otherwise, are rarely, if ever, seduced by students attending the University.

III. That soldiers are certainly not more guilty of the crime of seduction than other classes of the community.

## TABLE A.

*From April 1, 1864, to March 31, 1865.*

Daughter of a	Seduced by a
1. Labourer	Labourer
2. Painter	Sailor
3. Farmer	Gardener
4. Master builder	Ploughman
5. Painter	Carpenter
6. Basket maker	Private soldier
7. Tailor	Corkeutter
8. Road contractor	Carter
9. Joiner	Coppersmith
10. Cabman	Private soldier
11. Farmer	Hatter
12. Blacksmith	Mason
13. Shoemaker	?
14. Farmer	Joiner
15. Contractor	Flax worker
16. Baker	Confectioner
17. Painter	Paper maker
18. Spirit merchant	Clerk
19. ?	Gardener
20. Smith	Shoemaker
21. Ticket collector	Tailor
22. Farmer	Private soldier
23. Labourer	Labourer
24. Shoemaker	Carpenter
25. Tailor	Painter
26. Boiler maker	Engineer
27. Farm servant	Farm servant
28. Quarryman	Private soldier
29. Tailor	Tailor
30. Brickmaker	Sailor
31. Mason	Gardener
32. Sailor	Spirit merchant
33. Hawker	Carter
34. Plasterer	Brassfounder
35. Mason	Commercial Traveller
36. Stocking maker	Mason
37. Spirit merchant	Ship captain
38. Gamekeeper	Private soldier
39. Joiner	Baker
40. Schoolmaster	Missionary
41. Butcher	Coach painter
42. ?	Carver and gilder
43. Joiner	Butcher
44. Sailor	Private soldier
45. Policeman	Cabinetmaker
46. Labourer	Sailor
47. Porter	Engine fitter
48. Upholsterer	Clerk

Daughter of a  
 49. Shoemaker  
 50. Carter  
 51. Shoemaker  
 52. Cattle dealer  
 53. Commercial traveller  
 54. Farmer  
 55. Labourer  
 56. Shoemaker  
 57. Butler  
 58. Cabinetmaker  
 59. Mason  
 60. Hairdresser  
 61. Grocer  
 62. Solicitor  
 63. Teacher of fencing  
 64. Labourer  
 65. Tailor  
 66. Labourer  
 67. Farmer  
 68. Sawyer  
 69. Sailor  
 70. Painter  
 71. Land steward  
 72. Painter  
 73. Mill wright  
 74. Manufacturer  
 75. Grocer  
 76. ?  
 77. Labourer  
 78. Spring maker  
 79. Shepherd  
 80. Plumber  
 81. Spirit merchant  
 82. Slater  
 83. Joiner  
 84. Clerk  
 85. Labourer  
 86. Shoemaker  
 87. Shepherd  
 88. Sawyer  
 89. Gentleman  
 90. Inspector  
 91. Mill proprietor  
 92. Gardener  
 93. Merchant  
 94. Labourer  
 95. Weaver  
 96. Miller  
 97. Weaver  
 98. Labourer  
 99. Cabinetmaker  
 100. Farmer  
 101. Butcher  
 102. Farmer  
 103. Malster

Seduced by a  
 Clerk  
 Carter  
 Farm servant  
 Cooper  
 Joiner  
 Mason  
 Joiner  
 ?  
 ?  
 Plasterer  
 Mason  
 Shoemaker  
 Cabinetmaker  
 Gentleman  
 Servant  
 Bone crusher  
 Mason  
 Blacksmith  
 ?  
 Wood merchant  
 Boiler maker  
 Plumber  
 Butler  
 Blacksmith  
 Servant  
 Writer  
 Grocer  
 Baker  
 Labourer  
 Slater  
 Policeman  
 Spirit merchant  
 Surveyor  
 Artist  
 Horse dealer  
 Clerk  
 ?  
 Writer  
 Clerk  
 Engineer  
 Gentleman  
 Plumber  
 Brewer  
 Pointsman  
 Merchant  
 Labourer  
 Labourer  
 Joiner  
 Commercial traveller  
 Blacksmith  
 Blacksmith  
 Painter  
 Ship builder  
 Farmer  
 Mason



Daughter of a	Seduced by a
104. Commercial traveller	Tailor
105. Blacksmith	Mason
106. Sailor	Carter
107. Sailor	?
108. Labourer	Clerk
109. Shoemaker	Baker
110. Stereotyper	Waiter
111. Hawker	Mason
112. Mason	Joiner

*From April 1, 1865, to March 31, 1866.*

113. Baker	Plumber
114. Shoemaker	Printer
115. Iron moulder	Baker
116. Farmer	Shepherd
117. Labourer	Cabinetmaker
118. Sailmaker	Iron moulder
119. Joiner	Mason
120. Tailor	Servant
121. Joiner	Clerk
122. Gardener	Mason
123. Farmer	Coachmaker
124. Fisherman	Sailor
125. Storekeeper	Dock official.
126. Plumber	Shoemaker
127. Farmer	Clerk
128. Master carter	Labourer
129. Currier	Servant
130. Mason	Blacksmith
131. Porter	Clockmaker
132. Warehouseman	Commercial traveller
133. Gardener	Policeman
134. Cooper	Commercial traveller
135. Ploughman	Ploughman
136. Farmer	Joiner
137. Weaver	Sailor
138. Slater	Joiner
139. Mason	Sailor
140. Shepherd	Joiner
141. Bill poster	Printer
142. Carrier	Cabinetmaker
143. Shoemaker	Shoemaker
144. Lapidary	Private soldier
145. Skipper	Labourer
146. Groom	Waiter
147. Shoemaker	Mason
148. Fisherman	Miller
149. ?	Doctor
150. Tailor	Printer
151. Banksman	Coal merchant
152. Farmer	Butler
153. Gardener	Farmer
154. Tailor	Plasterer
155. Joiner	Gardener



Daughter of a	Seduced by a
156. Farmer	Grocer
157. Wright	Salesman
158. Carter	Engineer
159. Silversmith	Corn merchant
160. Private soldier	Printer
161. Labourer	Labourer
162. Ploughman	Gasman
163. Private soldier	Shoemaker
164. Painter	Clerk
165. Farmer	?
166. ?	Builder
167. Tailor	Sailor
168. Labourer	Carter
169. Private soldier	Railway porter
170. Cabman	Baker
171. Cooper	Mason
172. Farmer	Coachman
173. Railway guard	?
174. ?	?
175. Miner	Gentleman
176. ?	Mason
177. Chandler	Engineer
178. Lighthouse keeper	Engineer
179. Blacksmith	Mason
180. Grocer	Ploughman
181. Tailor	Engineer
182. Farmer	Cowfeeder
183. Labourer	Marble cutter
184. Gasfitter	Bell hanger
185. Shoemaker	Plasterer
186. Tanner	Brewer's man
187. Bottler	Mechanic
188. Architect	Butler
189. Plumber	Butcher
190. Shepherd	Mason
191. Chief mate	Bookbinder
192. Labourer	Carter
193. ?	?
194. Blacksmith	Plumber
195. Sawyer	Printer
196. Jobber	Inspector
197. Policeman	Waiter
198. Clerk	Clerk
199. Labourer	Labourer
200. Tailor	Tobacco spinner
201. Sailor	Joiner
202. Shoemaker.	Joiner
203. Gardener	Tailor
204. Mason	Plasterer
205. Farmer	Blacksmith
206. Labourer	Blacksmith
207. Tailor	Hawker
208. ?	Mason
209. Shoemaker	Butcher
210. Engineer	Carpenter

Daughter of a	Seduced by a
211. Gamekeeper	Butler
212. Van driver	Mason
213. Van driver	Grocer
214. Farmer	Hawker
215. Farm steward	Teacher
216. ?	Doctor
217. Ploughman	Coachman
218. Shoemaker	Shoemaker
219. Shoemaker	Brassfounder
220. Joiner	Plasterer
221. Mason	Tailor
222. Blacksmith	Private soldier
223. Baker	Private soldier
224. Servant	Sailor
225. Locksmith	?
226. Labourer	Hawker
227. Tailor	Mason
228. Mason	Coachman
229. Sailor	Commercial traveller
230. Steward	Sailor
231. Ploughman	Ploughman
232. Ploughman	Mason
233. Labourer	Labourer
234. Sailor	Cattle dealer
235. Shoemaker	Gardener
236. ?	Mechanic
237. Ploughman	Labourer
238. Joiner	Private soldier
239. Sailor	Engineer
240. Shoemaker	Printer
241. Painter	Plumber
242. Blacksmith	Engineer
243. Merchant	Clerk

*From April 1, 1866, to March 31, 1867.*

244. Coachman	Servant
245. Labourer	Cooper
246. Labourer	Labourer
247. Joiner	Baker
248. Labourer	Commercial traveller
249. Quarryman	Carter
250. Farmer	Architect
251. Shoemaker	Umbrella maker
252. Labourer	Ploughman
253. Ship captain	Ship carpenter
254. Blacksmith	Grocer
255. ?	Butcher
256. Schoolmaster	Keeper at a Lunatic Asylum
257. Joiner	Joiner
258. Innkeeper	Joiner
259. Shoemaker	Blacksmith
260. Tailor	Veterinary student
261. Gateman	Engineer
262. Miller	Gardener

Daughter of a	Seduced by a
263. Soldier	Engineer
264. Farm steward	Ship steward
265. Farmer	?
266. Labourer	Police sergeant
267. Porter	Saddler
268. Joiner	Painter
269. Butler	Printer
270. Carter	Labourer
271. Labourer	Slater
272. Shoemaker	Wood merchant
273. Sailor	Engineer
274. ?	Waiter
275. Doctor	Policeman
276. Soldier	Draper
277. Free Church minister	Private soldier
278. Banksman	Butler
279. Cab proprietor	Engineer
280. Gardener	Currier
281. Carpenter	Stoker
282. Private soldier	Moulder
283. Master draper	Clerk
284. Hatter	Printer
285. Labourer	Policeman
286. Sailor	Blacksmith
287. Farm steward	Painter
288. Master printer	Chemist
289. Gamekeeper	Joiner
290. Miner	Servant
291. Sergeant-major	Officer in the army
292. Mason	Plasterer
293. Gardener	Carter
294. Porter	Waiter
295. Master tailor	Printer
296. Butler	Vulcanite worker
297. Butcher	Baker
298. Weaver	Coachman
299. Master silver plater	Clerk
300. Joiner	Butler
301. Cooper	Engineer
302. Master mason	Clerk
303. Carpenter	Cabinetmaker
304. Labourer	Navvy
305. Gamekeeper	Miller
306. Mason	Custom-house officer
307. Painter	Baker
308. Joiner	Mason
309. Shepherd	Baker
310. Gutta percha worker	?
311. Farmer	Collier
312. Tobacco manufacturer	Carver and gilder
313. Labourer	Glassblower
314. Painter	Waiter
315. Barber	Chemist
316. Revenue officer	Clerk
317. Farmer	Grain measurer

Daughter of a	Seduced by a
318. Brewer	Brewer
319. Mason	Plumber
320. Labourer	Waiter
321. Gardener	Porter
322. Gardener	?
323. Shoemaker	Clerk
324. Farmer	Farmer
325. Blacksmith	Labourer
326. Labourer	Labourer
327. Clerk	Cabinetmaker
328. Labourer	Clerk
329. Mason	Farrier
330. Joiner	Porter
331. Farmer	Solicitor
332. Farmer	Private soldier
333. Painter	Slater
334. Tailor	Waiter
335. Cabinetmaker	Farm servant
336. ?	Commercial traveller
337. Stonecutter	Mason
338. Stonecutter	Printer
339. Tailor	Ship captain
340. Butcher	Groom
341. Cabinetmaker	Blacksmith
342. Hawker	Blacksmith
343. Mason	Clockmaker
344. Dentist	Mason
345. Mason	Cooper
346. Shoemaker	Mason
347. Gardener	Quarryman
348. Mason	Coachman
349. Marine storekeeper	Mason
350. Farmer	Policeman
351. Coach proprietor	Innkeeper
352. Farmer	Engine cleaner
353. Coal heaver	Van driver
354. Labourer	Labourer
355. Coal heaver	Brewer's man
356. Ploughman	Ploughman
357. Tailor	Ship carpenter
358. Labourer	Sailor
359. Shoemaker	Collier
360. Farm servant	Blacksmith
361. Mason	Currier
362. Blacksmith	Plumber
363. Painter	Coachbuilder
364. Fisherman	Mason

TABLE B.

	First Year	Second Year.	Third Year.	Total.
Architect, - - - - -	...	...	1	1
Artist, - - - - -	1	...	...	1
Baker, - - - - -	3	2	4	9
Bell hanger, - - - - -	...	1	...	1
Blacksmith, - - - - -	4	3	5	12
Boiler maker, - - - - -	1	...	...	1
Bone crusher, - - - - -	1	...	...	1
Bookbinder, - - - - -	...	1	...	1
Brassfounder, - - - - -	1	1	...	2
Brewer, - - - - -	1	...	1	2
Brewer's man, - - - - -	...	1	1	2
Builder, - - - - -	...	1	...	1
Butcher, - - - - -	1	2	1	4
Butler, - - - - -	1	3	2	6
Cabinetmaker, - - - - -	2	2	2	6
Carpenter, - - - - -	2	1	...	3
Carter, - - - - -	4	2	2	8
Carver and gilder, - - - - -	1	...	1	2
Cattle dealer, - - - - -	...	1	...	1
Chemist, - - - - -	...	...	2	2
Clerk, - - - - -	5	5	6	16
Clockmaker, - - - - -	...	1	1	2
Coachmaker, - - - - -	...	1	1	2
Coachman, - - - - -	...	3	2	5
Coach painter, - - - - -	1	...	...	1
Coal merchant, - - - - -	...	1	...	1
Collier, - - - - -	...	...	2	2
Commercial traveller, - - - - -	2	3	2	7
Confectioner, - - - - -	1	...	...	1
Cooper, - - - - -	1	...	2	3
Coppersmith, - - - - -	1	...	...	1
Cork cutter, - - - - -	1	...	...	1
Corn merchant, - - - - -	...	1	...	1
Cowfeeder, - - - - -	...	1	...	1
Currier, - - - - -	...	...	2	2
Custom-house officer, - - - - -	...	...	1	1
Dock official, - - - - -	...	1	...	1
Doctor, - - - - -	...	2	...	2
Draper, - - - - -	...	...	1	1
Engineer, - - - - -	2	6	5	13
Engine cleaner, - - - - -	...	...	1	1
Engine fitter, - - - - -	1	...	...	1
Farmer, - - - - -	1	1	1	3
Farm servant, - - - - -	2	...	1	3
Farrier, - - - - -	...	...	1	1
Flax worker, - - - - -	1	...	...	1
Gardener, - - - - -	3	2	1	6

	First Year.	Second Year.	Third Year.	Total.
Gasman, - - - - -	...	1	...	1
Gentleman, - - - - -	2	1	...	3
Glass blower, - - - - -	...	...	1	1
Grain measurer, - - - - -	...	...	1	1
Grocer, - - - - -	1	2	1	4
Groom, - - - - -	...	...	1	1
Hatter, - - - - -	1	...	...	1
Hawker, - - - - -	...	3	...	3
Horse dealer, - - - - -	1	...	...	1
Innkeeper, - - - - -	...	...	1	1
Inspector, - - - - -	...	1	...	1
Iron moulder, - - - - -	...	1	...	1
Joiner, - - - - -	4	5	3	12
Keeper at a Lunatic Asylum, -	...	...	1	1
Labourer, - - - - -	5	5	5	15
Marble cutter, - - - - -	...	1	...	1
Mason, - - - - -	8	11	6	25
Mechanic, - - - - -	...	2	...	2
Merchant, - - - - -	1	...	...	1
Miller, - - - - -	...	1	1	2
Missionary, - - - - -	1	...	...	1
Moulder, - - - - -	...	...	1	1
Navvy, - - - - -	...	...	1	1
Officer in the army, - - - - -	...	...	1	1
Painter, - - - - -	2	...	1	3
Paper maker, - - - - -	1	...	...	1
Plasterer, - - - - -	1	4	1	6
Ploughman, - - - - -	1	3	2	6
Plumber, - - - - -	2	3	2	7
Pointsman, - - - - -	1	...	...	1
Policeman, - - - - -	1	1	3	5
Police sergeant, - - - - -	...	...	1	1
Porter, - - - - -	...	...	2	2
Printer, - - - - -	...	6	4	10
Private soldier, - - - - -	6	4	2	12
Quarryman, - - - - -	...	...	1	1
Railway porter, - - - - -	...	1	...	1
Saddler, - - - - -	...	...	1	1
Sailor, - - - - -	3	6	1	10
Salesman, - - - - -	...	1	...	1
Servant, - - - - -	2	2	2	6
Shepherd, - - - - -	...	1	...	1
Ship builder, - - - - -	1	...	...	1
Ship captain, - - - - -	1	...	1	2
Ship carpenter, - - - - -	...	...	2	2
Ship steward, - - - - -	...	...	1	1
Shoemaker, - - - - -	2	4	...	6
Slater, - - - - -	1	...	2	3
Solicitor, - - - - -	...	...	1	1
Spirit merchant, - - - - -	2	...	...	2
Stoker, - - - - -	...	...	1	1
Surveyor, - - - - -	1	...	...	1

	First Year.	Second Year.	Third Year.	Total.
Tailor, - - - - -	3	2	...	5
Teacher, - - - - -	...	1	...	1
Tobacco spinner, - - - - -	...	1	...	1
Umbrella maker, - - - - -	...	...	1	1
Van driver, - - - - -	...	...	1	1
Veterinary student, - - - - -	...	...	1	1
Vulcanite worker, - - - - -	...	...	1	1
Waiter, - - - - -	1	2	5	8
Wood merchant, - - - - -	1	...	1	2
Writer, - - - - -	2	...	...	2
Occupation not known or withheld,	6	6	3	15

TABLE C.

17 were 17 years old at time of confinement.

24 " 18 " " "

43 " 19 " " "

51 " 20 " " "

39 " 21 " " "

40 " 22 " " "

34 " 23 " " "

21 " 24 " " "

17 " 25 " " "

19 " 26 " " "

15 " 27 " " "

10 " 28 " " "

1 was 29 " " "

6 were 30 " " "

5 " 31 " " "

5 " 32 " " "

1 was 33 " " "

5 were 34 " " "

2 " 35 " " "

2 " 36 " " "

1 was 37 " " "

1 " 39 " " "

1 " 41 " " "

1 " 43 " " "

3 were unable to give their age.



